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By SAm MARA Date 2/25/72

Department's preliminary views follow:

1) Department sees no possibility of producing useful Working Group report unless and until German position on Zones is modified, and little value in a report which glosses over problem by QUOTE formulations UNQUOTE and footnotes. Would prefer to see Group prepare frank report on disagreed items for transmission to four Governments. Does USRO recommend this be done?

2) Department considering possibility using disagreed report as occasion for approach to Chancellor in order to learn more of short and long-run implications of German position. For example, would Germans defend position in part by suggesting there is no immediate need for resolution question of Zones?

Some light may be thrown on question by the Chancellor's promised letter. In

Murphy-Grewel

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Murphy-Grewe conversation yesterday Grewe implied German position taken to preserve flexibility German position, and in part as reaction to German conversations with Laloy suggesting possibility of a discriminatory position for a reunified Germany in NATO.

- 3) Procedural problem created by temporarily terminating activity of Working Group on this subject in order to consult governments recognized as acute in view of impatience of NAC to have report of activities of Working Group and European Security Committee. Department would see little purpose and substantial disadvantage in general airing of problem in NAC at this time. What are USRO's views as to how procedural problem can best be handled?
- 4) Suggest British and French members of Working Group be consulted for their views and that in meantime US representative go along with preparation of QUOTE agreed report UNQUOTE along lines already reported, but intimating US considering possibility that report in that vein not sufficiently useful for handing on to European Security Committee and NAC.

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